
State Water Resources Control Board

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND
NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
DRAFT CONCLUSIONS OF THE AGRICULTURAL EXPERT PANEL:
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
PERTAINING TO THE IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM**

**Friday July 18, 2014 – 9:00 a.m.
Joe Serna, Jr.–Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
Byron Sher Auditorium
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will hold a public hearing to receive public comments and testimony on the *Draft Conclusions of the Agricultural Expert Panel: Recommendations to the State Water Resources Control Board Pertaining to the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program*. The meeting will be led by members of the Expert Panel. A quorum of the State Water Board members may be in attendance; however no Board action will be taken at this meeting.

Background

Chapter 1 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2008 (SBX2 1, Perata), required the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to develop pilot projects focusing on nitrate in groundwater in the Tulare Lake Basin and Salinas Valley, and to submit a report to the Legislature on the scope and findings of the pilot projects, including recommendations. The State Water Board made 15 recommendations in 4 key areas to address the issues associated with nitrate contaminated groundwater. The key areas to address these issues are:

1. Providing safe drinking water.
2. Monitoring, notification, and assessment.
3. Nitrogen tracking and reporting.
4. Protecting groundwater.

Expert Panel

Recommendation 14 of the State Water Board's report to the Legislature was to convene a panel of experts to assess existing agricultural nitrate control programs and develop recommendations, as needed, to ensure that ongoing efforts are protective of groundwater supply quality. The State Water Board has contracted with the Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC), a center established within the BioResource and Agricultural Engineering Department of the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo to assemble the expert panel of 8 persons. The Expert Panel members have been selected and presented with questions for their consideration. Information about the panel members and their charge is available on the ITRC website at <http://www.itrc.org/001/swrcb.htm>.

Availability of Documents

The *Draft Conclusions of the Agricultural Expert Panel: Recommendations to the State Water Resources Control Board Pertaining to the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program* may be viewed and downloaded from the State Water Board's Agricultural webpage at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/agriculture/

You may request a paper copy by contacting Ashley Zellmer at (916) 341-5911 or by emailing your request to Ashley.Zellmer@waterboards.ca.gov.

Written Comments

The State Water Board will accept written comments and remarks for the Expert Panel's consideration on the Panel's draft report. Comments and remarks must be received by **12:00 noon on Thursday, August 7, 2014** and addressed to:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Comments and remarks may be submitted electronically, in pdf text format (if less than 15 megabytes in total size), to the Clerk to the Board via e-mail at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov.

If the file is greater than 15 megabytes in total size, then the document(s) may be submitted by fax at (916) 341-5620. Please indicate in the subject line: "**Agricultural Expert Panel Draft Report,**" as applicable.

Couriers delivering hard copies of documents must check in with lobby security personnel, who can contact Ms. Townsend at (916) 341-5600.

Project Tools and Information

Project information, including meeting notices, agendas, minutes, and other pertinent material/documents will be posted online at <http://www.itrc.org/001/swrcb.htm>.

Please direct any questions about this notice to Johnny Gonzales at (916) 341-5510 or Ashley Zellmer at (916) 341-5911.

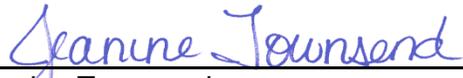
Parking, Accessibility and Security

The Cal/EPA Building is accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations, including real-time translation services, at any of the public meetings are requested to contact Ashley Zellmer at (916) 341-5911.

Due to enhanced security precautions at the Cal/EPA Building, all visitors are required to register with security staff prior to attending any meeting. To sign in and receive a visitor's badge, visitors must go to the Visitor and Environmental Services Center, located just inside and to the left of the building's public entrance. Depending on their destination and the building's security level, visitors may be asked to show valid picture identification.

Valid picture identification can take the form of a current driver's license, military identification card, or state or federal identification card. Depending on the size and number of meetings scheduled on any given day, the security check-in could take up to fifteen minutes. Please allow adequate time to sign in before being directed to the hearing.

July 7, 2014
Date


Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board

Schedule (some dates may be changed at a later date and all changes will be noticed).

Date	Event	Location
March 10th, 2014 Completed	Advisory Committee Kickoff Meeting	Cal/EPA Building Sierra Hearing Room, Sacramento
May 5th-6th, 2014 Completed	Expert Panel Public Meeting #1	San Luis Obispo 5th: Irrigation Training and Research Center 6th: Monday Club
May 7th, 2014 Completed	Expert Panel Public Meeting #2	SCE Energy Education Center, Tulare
May 9th, 2014 Completed	Expert Panel Public Meeting #3	Cal/EPA Building Byron Sher Auditorium, Sacramento
June 9th, 2014 Completed	Expert Panel Meeting #4	Irrigation Training and Research Center, San Luis Obispo
June 23th, 2014 Completed	Expert Panel Meeting #5	Meeting Location: Irrigation Training and Research Center, San Luis Obispo Teleconference Location: Luhdorff & Scalmanini, Woodland
July 1st, 2014 Completed	Expert Panel Meeting #6	Irrigation Training and Research Center, San Luis Obispo
July 7th, 2014	Expert Panel Draft Report Released	N/A
July 7 th -August 7th, 2014	Public Comment Period on Expert Panel Draft Report	N/A
July 18th, 2014	Expert Panel Public Meeting #7 on Draft Report	Cal/EPA Building Byron Sher Auditorium, Sacramento
July 28th, 2014	Advisory Committee Meeting	Cal/EPA Building Sierra Hearing Room, Sacramento
August 20th, 2014	Expert Panel Meeting #8	Irrigation Training and Research Center, San Luis Obispo
September 23rd, 2014	Expert Panel presents Final Report at Board Meeting	Cal/EPA Building Coastal Hearing Room, Sacramento